

Message Text

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SUBJ: BIODATA ON KENJIRO CHIKARAISHI, JAPANESE AMB TO
SWITZERLAND

REF: BERN 3956

1. FOLLOWING BIODATA IS PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL.
AMBASSADOR KENJIRO CHIKARAISHI, CAREER DIPLOMAT, WAS BORN
AUGUST 6, 1916. TOKYO UNIVERSITY GRADUATE, HE ENTERED
MOFA IN 1940. DURING WAR YEARS HE SERVED AS NAVY PAY-
MASTER LIEUTENANT. IN POSTWAR PERIOD, OKE OTHER JAPANESE
DIPLOMATS, HE WAS DETAILED TO GOJ'S CENTRAL LIAISON
OFFICE, CONTACT POINT WITH U.S. OCCUPATION FORCES (1945-
52). RETURNING TO MOFA IN 1952, HE SERVED BRIEFLY IN
TREATIES BUREAU AND WAS THEN SENT TO JAPANESE EMBASSY IN
FRANCE AS SECOND SECRETARY (LATER PROMOTED TO FIRST
SECRETARY). FROM 1954 TO 1959 HE WAS ASSIGNED TO EUROPEAN
AND OCEANIC BUREAU, BECOMING CHIEF OF WEST EUROPE SECTION
DURING THAT PERIOD.

2. FOLLOWING TOUR AS MEMBER OF JAPANESE UN DELEGATION
(1959-61), HE BECAME CONSUL GENERAL IN GENEVA. WHILE IN
GENEVA HE PARTICIPATED IN VARIETY OF INTERNATIONAL CON-
FERENCES, INCLUDING ILO, GATT, AND ECAFE. HE SERVED AS
DIRECTOR GENERAL, MOFA MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICAN AFFAIRS
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BUREAU (1964-67). FOLLOWING ASSIGNMENTS WERE AS AMBASSADOR

TO CAMBODIA (1967-71) AND AMBASSADOR TO POLAND (1971-72).
IN 1972 CHIKARAISHI WAS APPOINTED CHIEF OF PROTOCOL,
POSITION HE OCCUPIED UNTIL NAMED AMBASSADOR TO SWITZER-
LAND IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

3. ALTHOUGH NOTING THAT HIS ENGLISH WAS GOOD, EMBOFFS
WHO KNEW HIM SEVERAL YEARS AGO DESCRIBED CHIKARAISHI AS
SHY, WITH TENDENCY TO BE SULLEN AND DOUR. ANOTHER OFFICER
WHO KNEW HIM IN CAMBODIA, HOWEVER, REGARDED HIM AS "ONE
OF MOST SATISFACTORY MOFA OFFICERS TO WORK WITH," AND
COMMENDED HIS SINCERITY AND DIRECTNESS. IN ADDITION TO
ENGLISH, HE REPORTEDLY SPEAKS GOOD FRENCH. HIS WIFE
SPEAKS SOME ENGLISH BUT NO FRENCH. THEY HAVE FOUR GROWN
CHILDREN.

4. ONE PERSONAL NOTE OF INTEREST IS THAT CHIKARAISHI WAS
STATIONED IN KURE IN 1945 AND THEREFORE SAW MUSHROOM
CLOUD OVER HIROSHIMA WHEN ATOMIC BOMB DROPPED THERE.
HODGSON

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